

Date: November 23, 2025

Title: A People Shaped by the Word of God

Passage: Ephesians 4:11-16

Summary:

- I. Christ equips leaders to lead the church. (v.11)
- II. Equipped people grow in the maturity in God's Word. (v.13-14)
- III. Mature believers build up the church in love. (v.16)

Key Truths:

Trinity Ministry Vision

Our Ministry Vision at Trinity Community Church is to bring glory to God by building up and equipping its members for living out the Gospel in every facet of life.

God has sovereignly ordained the display of His glory through the Church, which is made up of those who have been called and redeemed through the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross. The Scriptures reveal that one of the most important and visible ways a local church glorifies God is by "building up and equipping" its members to become fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ. (Ephesians 4:11-15)

Trinity Ministry Values

Gospel-Centered Preaching and Teaching (Ephesians 4:11)

1. Gospel-Centered Corporate Worship (Ephesians 3:21 and 5:19)
2. Gospel-Centered Servant Leadership (Ephesians 4:7,11)
3. Gospel-Centered Discipleship (Ephesians 4:12-13)
4. Gospel-Centered Fellowship (Ephesians 4:14-16)
5. Gospel-Centered Living (Ephesians 4:1-6:9)
6. Gospel-Centered Evangelism and Missions (Ephesians 3:20; 6:19-20)

Trinity offers a church home where the whole Word of God shapes the whole life of God's people and where every person is known, shepherded, and invited into genuine community in Jesus Christ. It is a place of serious joy, deep discipleship, and authentic care for every generation.

Application:

The Call

1. Pray: Ask the Lord to provide every resource needed and prepare the hearts of those who will one day worship here.

2. Give: If Trinity is your home, ask God how He would have you participate. If you're new to Trinity, we invite you to join this story of faith.

3, Encourage: Be a messenger of hope. Share what God is doing. Remind others that this is more than a building, it's a testimony to God's faithfulness and a tool for Him to reach more people throughout the Fresno/Clovis area with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Possible Discussion Questions:

- What point(s) in the sermon did the Lord most impress upon you?
 - What's a takeaway from the sermon you can apply to your life?
 - What next steps will you take in response to the truths you have heard or read?
-

Introduction

Why does the church exist?

How does God invite you in building what He is doing through the church?

- We are to equip each other for the work of ministry of the Gospel.
 - We are to feed the sheep, not to entertain the goats.

Trinity Church Ministry Vision is to bring glory to God by building up and equipping its members for living out the Gospel in every facet of life. (“Building it up; Living it out”)

Trinity Church Ministry Values: Gospel-Centered...

Preaching and Teaching, Worship, Servant Leadership, Discipleship and Growth, Fellowship, Living, Servant Leadership, Evangelism and Mission

Passage:

Ephesians 4:11-16

And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

EXPOSITION

I. Christ equips leaders to lead the church (v.11)

Ephesians 4:11

And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers,

What is our role in the church?

- Leaders are to equip believers for the ministry.
- Not Entertain spectators

II. Equipped people grow in the maturity in God's Word (v.13-14)

Ephesians 4:13-14

until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.

- we are to go deep in God's Word.

Contrast: Today's culture of fast-food Christianity

1 Corinthians 3:1-2

Divisions in the Church

But I, brothers, could not address you as spiritual people, but as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for it. And even now you are not yet ready,

2 Timothy 4:3-4

For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.

Truth: we ought to be shaped by the Word of God on a regular basis.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

2 Peter 1:3

His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence,

III. Mature believers build up the church in love. (v.16)

Ephesians 4:16

from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

- Sign of maturity is not that you think of yourself more
 - but think of yourself less.
- The more you know of Christ, you echo John the Baptist's perspective:

John 3:30

He must increase, but I must decrease."

1 Corinthians 10:31

So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

Matthew 5:16

In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Trinity Ministry Vision

Our Ministry Vision at Trinity Community Church is to bring glory to God by building up and equipping its members for living out the Gospel in every facet of life.

God has sovereignly ordained the display of His glory through the Church, which is made up of those who have been called and redeemed through the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross. The Scriptures reveal that one of the most important and visible ways a local church glorifies God is by "building up and equipping" its members to become fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ. (Ephesians 4:11-15)

Trinity Ministry Values

Gospel-Centered Preaching and Teaching (Ephesians 4:11)

1. Gospel-Centered Corporate Worship (Ephesians 3:21 and 5:19)
2. Gospel-Centered Servant Leadership (Ephesians 4:7, 11)
3. Gospel-Centered Discipleship (Ephesians 4:12-13)
4. Gospel-Centered Fellowship (Ephesians 4:14-16)
5. Gospel-Centered Living (Ephesians 4:1-6:9)
6. Gospel-Centered Evangelism and Missions (Ephesians 3:20; 6:19-20)

Trinity offers a church home where the whole Word of God shapes the whole life of God's people and where every person is known, shepherded, and invited into genuine community in Jesus Christ. It is a place of serious joy, deep discipleship, and authentic care for every generation.

Space for the Gospel at Trinity:

- 1.2 Million Population of the Fresno metropolitan area.
- 63% Fresno County residents with no connection to a Christian Church
- 5,500 Net new residents to Fresno in 2023 - the county's largest one-year gain so far this decade.
- 5,000 new homes planned within a 1-mile radius of Trinity over the next five years.
- 14.8% Job growth in Fresno from 2022 to 2023 one of the fastest in the state
- 28.3 Residents of Fresno County under the age of 18 - a generation in need of truth, belonging, and spiritual foundation.

The Call

1. Pray: Ask the Lord to provide every resource needed and prepare the hearts of those who will one day worship here.

2. Give: If Trinity is your home, ask God how He would have you participate. If you're new to Trinity, we invite you to join this story of faith.

3, Encourage: Be a messenger of hope. Share what God is doing. Remind others that this is more than a building, it's a testimony to God's faithfulness and a tool for Him to reach more people throughout the Fresno/Clovis area with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Additional Thoughts: Thanksgiving

Psalms 103:2

Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits,

1 Thessalonians 5:18

give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

Romans 8:28

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

We're thankful that God has made us, that He made this world, that God made us in his image. We're thankful that God has given us such good gifts. He's the giver of every good gift. We are thankful for the honor of knowing him in Jesus Christ, our Lord. And we're thankful for the salvation that he has accomplished for us. We're thankful for our adoption in Christ as his joint heirs. We are thankful for the fact that we are made for glory and made for eternity. We're thankful for the opportunity to know him.

People

"Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God." (Philippians 1:3)

Privileges & Blessings

"Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget none of His blessings." (Psalm 103:2)

Prayers Answered

"Give thanks to the Lord; call on His name. Make known among the people what He has done." (Psalm 105:1)

Problems & God's Purpose

"Dear brothers and sisters, whenever trouble comes your way, let it be an opportunity for joy...For we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love Him and are called according to His purpose for them." (James 1:2; Romans 8:28)

Ephesians 3:20-21

Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.